

## Jaya Ekadasi

The insurmountably glorious day of Jaya Ekadasi is a joy for all and can deliver illimitable results. Jaya Ekadasi takes place during the waxing Moon, in the month of Chaitra. The renown of this Ekadasi is discussed in a conversation between Sri Krsna and Yudhisthira Maharaja.

Maharaj Yudhisthira asked Lord Krsna "O Supreme Personality of Godhead! O Original Progenitor of all living entities! O Lord of the Universe! Please describe unto me the results of observing the Ekadasi that falls during the waxing Moon, in the month of Chaitra. Also please delineate the method for following this Ekadasi."

Sri Krsna replied: "O King of kings, Yudhisthira! This Ekadasi is known to all as Jaya Ekadasi and it's benediction is unfathomable. By careful observance of this holy day one can free himself from all his *prarabdha* karma. One who completes the Ekadasi vrata on this day need never accept a spectral body. O *Simharaja*, O lion-like King! Please hear my description, which was previously recorded in Padma Purana.

"While the many demigods lived happily in their celestial abode, Indra ruled with exalted autonomy. The Nandan Kanana forest resounded with the sweet chirping of friendly *cakora* birds, and the whole area was constantly enchanted with the dulcet scent of *parijata* flowers. Many wonderful Gandharvas would sing for hours in the misty wilderness, and the Apsaras would sometimes dance along.

"Once Indra organised a enormous festival with over fifty-million Apsaras. Amongst this kaleidoscopic entourage there was one very beautiful Gandharva singer named Pushpadanta. Pushpadanta sang with great skill and dexterity of voice, in the Gandharva scale; and thus caused the Apsaras to dance in ecstasy. Also in attendance was another Gandharva called Chitrasena; who had come there with his wife Malini and their daughter. Chitrasena also had one son who was known to all as Pushpavana; Pushpavana in turn had a son named Malyavan. A Gandharvi named Pushpavati became ensnared by the irresistible beauty of Malyavana and tried in many ways to attract his attention. From across the crowd of dancers she through arrows from the quiver of her eyes. Sidelong glances meant to pierce the heart of the beatific Gandharva.

"O my dear King, how can I describe the gorgayse beauty of Pushpavati. Her waist was thin, her hips broad and her thighs were like banana trees. She was artistically decorated with earrings and necklaces galore. Her neck rivalled the beauty of a conch and her breasts were pert and raised. Her feet were reddened and she wore glittering anklets. She was wrapped in an exquisite sari with a psiren standard. Upon seeing such a elegant and attractive young lady, Malyavana became totally captivated. Cupid had drawn back his bow and shot right through his heart with an flower arrow.

"Malyavana and Pushpavati wound their way towards each other, dancing their way through the crowd of beatific Apsaras. They found each other in the centre of the whorl and began to dance a most precise and intensely evocative choreograph. However, as their lust welled up into their throats they began to miss steps and completely forgot the rhythm of the music. As a result the onlookers pointed aghast at the two bamboozlers. When Indra realised the mishap he immediately flew into a rage and called for their

audience.

Dragged before mighty Indra the two casanovas stood quaking with fear. Indra boomed at them: "You two are nothing by fools and you have no place in my assembly, I will curse you both to become ghosts and live in the Himalaya mountain range, where you will not be able to disturb the lives of civilised creatures. You will suffer on the Earth planet and live in a dank and dreary cave!"

"After being cursed in this way both Malyavana and Pushpavati spent many days in a hideous cave in the mountains. They both felt great distress and anxiety; they were unable to enjoy any sense of smell and they were both rendered insomniac.

"Sat in their gloomy cave they both repented: "Alas, what horrible sinful activities we have performed, how much we are now suffering in these wretched ghostly figurines."

Absorbed in a repentant mood they were both unaware of any calendar-they wotedly deplored their poor condition and passed the entire day and night without eating, sleeping, fearing or mating.

"O *simharaj*, lion-hearted King, The two ghosts unknowingly observed Jaya Ekadasi. By the influence of sempiternal piety, accrued from this munificent Ekadasi-they were liberated from their spectral forms the very next day. Completely to their surprise two beautiful flower airplanes arrived and carried them back to the heavenly realm.

"Indra was beside himself with wonder at seeing the two infidels back so soon. He exclaimed: "What a wonder! What *yajna* could you have possibly performed that has given such mountainous result. How have you been freed from your ghost bodies, what has happened... how, how!?"

"By the causeless mercy of the Supreme Lord we have been freed from our past sinful activities by observing Ekadasi on the victorious day of the waxing moon in the month of Chaitra. We are now free from the curse, O master! We tell you in all truth we have been liberated simply by the execution of devotional service."

"After hearing these words Indra replied thus: "Through the divine influence of bhakti shakti you have been alleviated of your reactive karma. Lord Visnu is pleased with you, indubitably! Therefore I too am also satisfied with your repentance. Those who are engaged in devotional service are certainly favoured by me."

"Thenceforth Pushpavati and Malyavana resided happily in the heavenly abode. They resumed their services and lived peaceably in the court of Indra deva."

"O my dear Yudhisthira, Maharaj! One who observes the vow of Jaya Ekadasi defeats even the sin of killing a *brahmana*. The secondary fruits of observing this vow are that one, receives the piety of giving in charity, performing sacrifice and visiting holy places. If one properly follows the vow of this Ekadasi with faith and devotion then he lives in Vaikuntha forever.

"Even if one just hears the glories of this sacred Ekadasi one can attain the result of an Agnistoma sacrifice."